

# Global Work at the Local Level: Afghan immigrants in Wisconsin

Philip Wegner RN, MPH

TB Nurse Consultant

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WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT  
*of* HEALTH SERVICES



# OUTLINE

- Afghanistan the place
- Afghanistan the people
  - History
  - Ethnicity
  - Basic Culture
  - Religion
  - Family/Gender Roles
- Operation Allies Welcome
- Do's and Don'ts
- Etiquette





# THE PLACE

# GEOGRAPHY

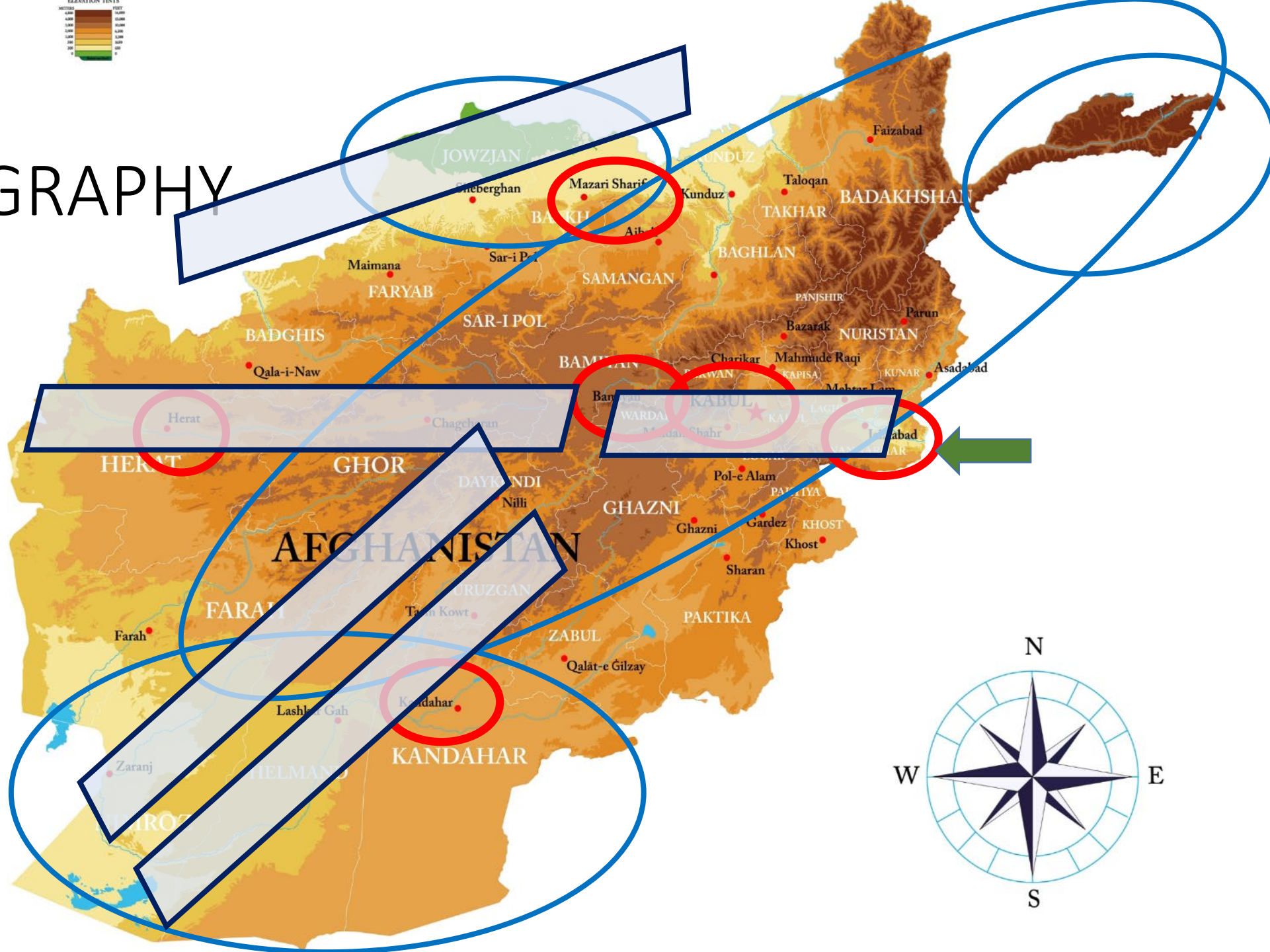
## Part of Central Asia

- Bordered by:
- Turkmenistan
- Uzbekistan
- Tajikistan
- India
- Iran
- China
- Pakistan





# GEOGRAPHY





KABUL





SOUTHWESTERN AFGHANISTAN



# HERAT







# HISTORY

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- Afghanistan has a very long and rich history
- A history of conquest, empire and occupation
- The crossroads of civilizations between; East, West, North and South
- Greek, Persian, Mongol, Russian, British, Soviet, American and Taliban



Occupiers include early Persians 500 – 330 BCE

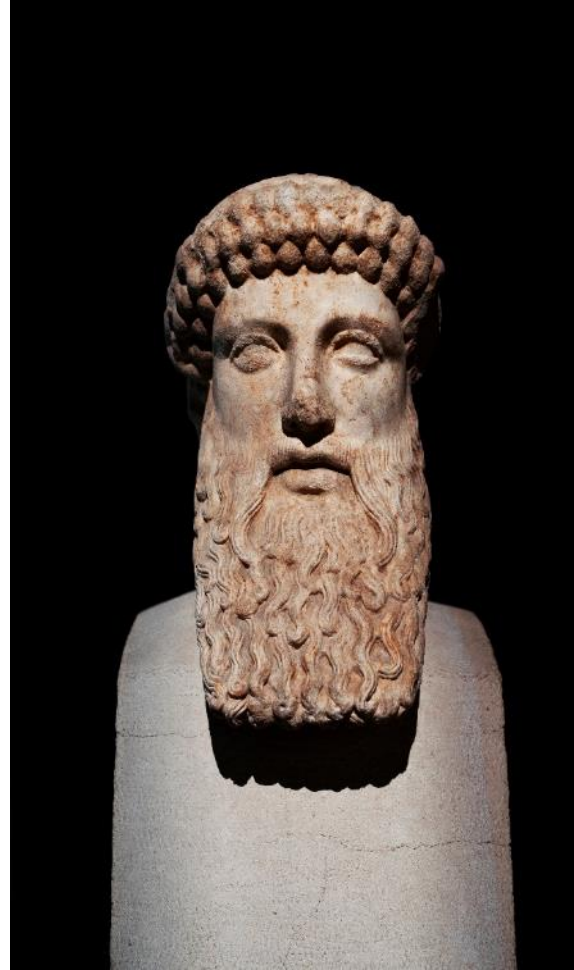




Alexander the Great 329 BCE



Zoroastrianism



Greek Hellenistic



Hinduism



Buddhism



# Islam



Introduced into Afghanistan in seventh century by Arabs

- Not established completely until the twelve century
- Buddhist population living under Islamic rule
- Amir Suri converted to Islam from Buddhism and the Ghurid Empire followed (9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> century)
- Hazaras became Shia (Persian) and the rest of Afghanistan Sunni Islam (Arab)

# The Silk Road

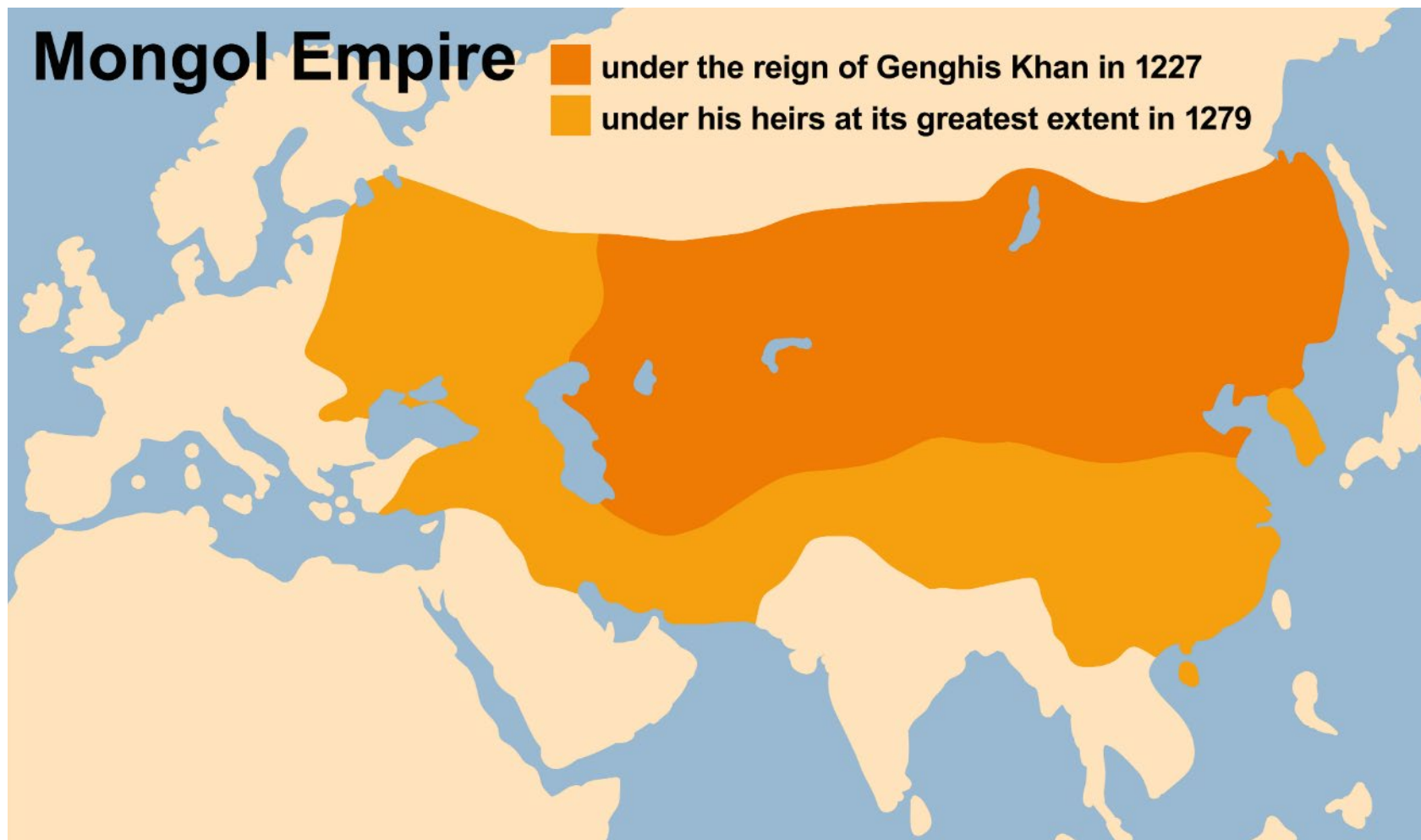




# Map of the Persian Empire IRAN

## Later Persians





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Mongol [Genghis Khan] 13<sup>th</sup> century



# Timurid Dynasty 1370-1507

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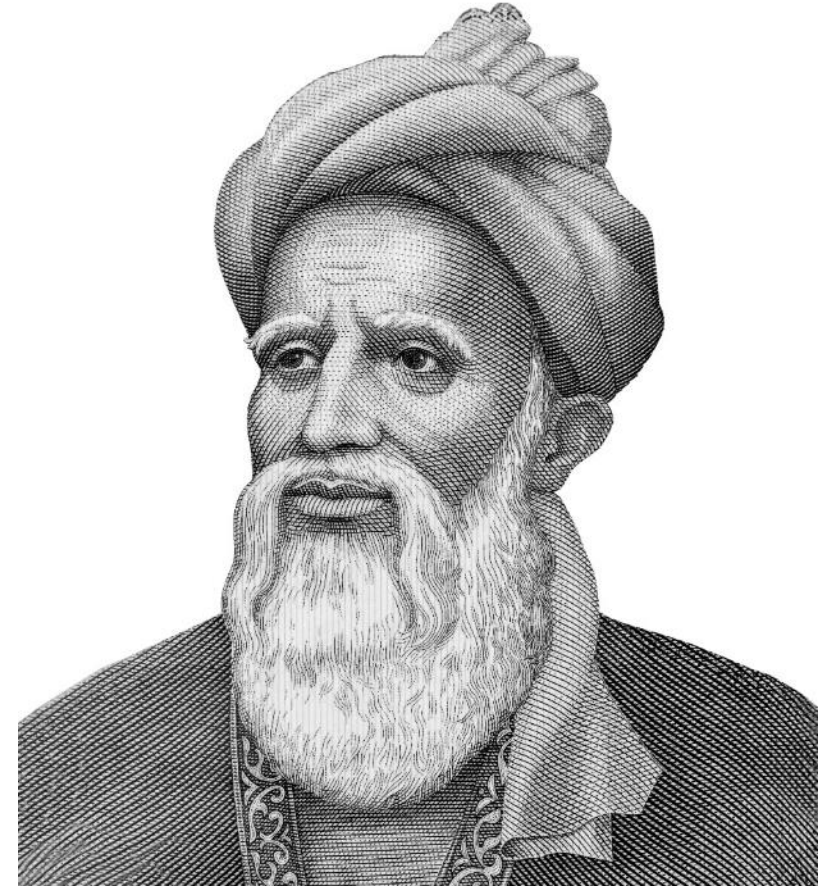




Ulugh Bek –astronomer



Avicenna -medicine



Rudaki -Poet

# Durrani Empire 1747-1842



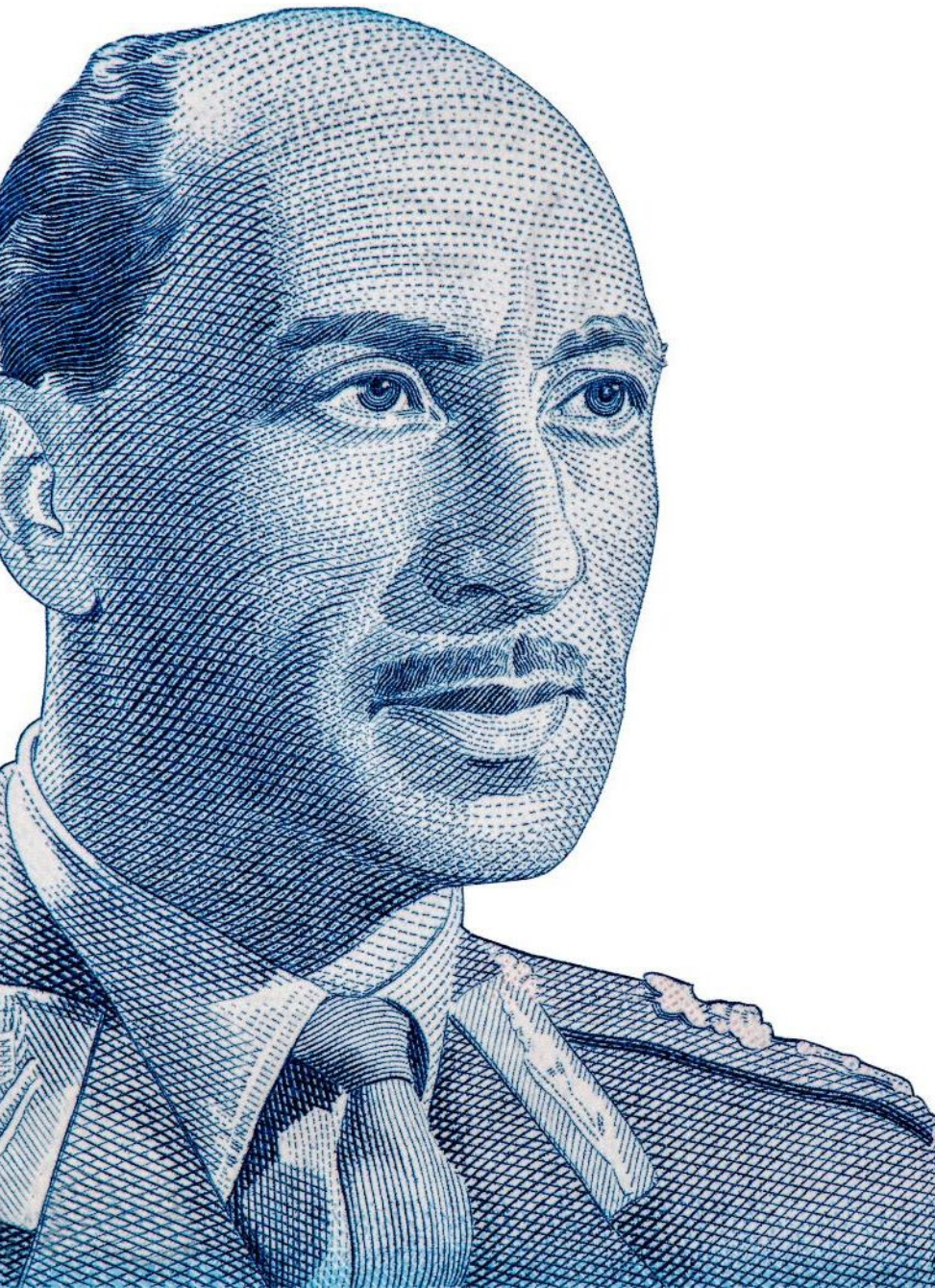


# The Great Game



“SAVE ME FROM MY FRIENDS!”





# King Zahir Khan 1933-1973

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- Successive rules:
  - Dost Mohammed Khan Emir 1826-1863
  - Abdur Rahman 1880 -1901
  - Civil Wars (1928-1929)
  - Nadir Khan elected as king but assassinated
  - His son Zahir Khan the last king of Afghanistan
  - Experiments in democracy
  - Afghan tribal revolts
  - Coup 1973





# Soviet War 1978-1989



# U.S. War 2001-2021

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After the events of 9/11



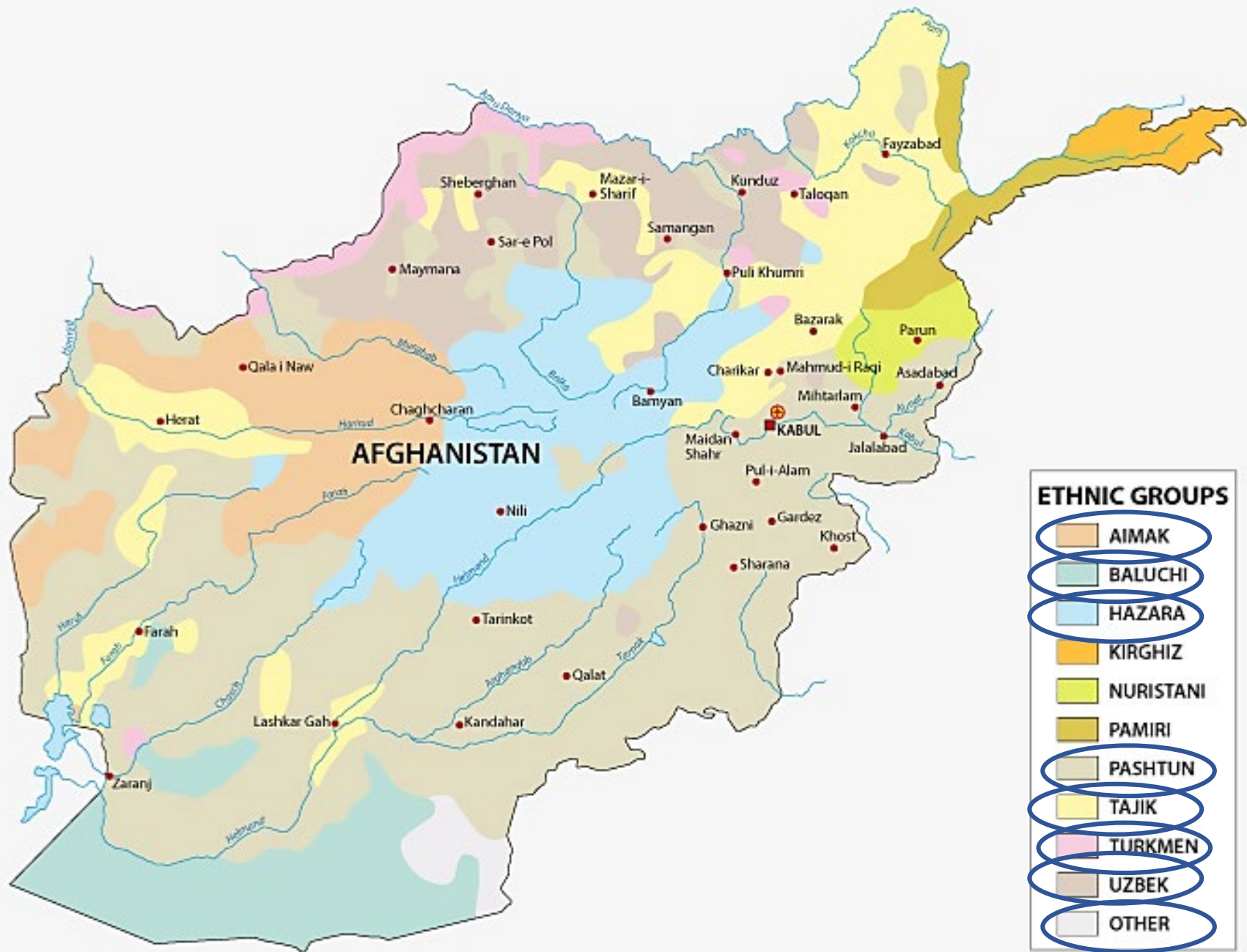




الإسلام  
محمد رسول الله

Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan

Taliban rule  
1996-2001,  
2021 present







# PEOPLE



Pashtun

Tajik

Hazaras

Uzbek

Turkmen

Farsiwan

Kuchi

Pamiris





# Core Concepts

Resilience

Stoicism

Honor

Loyalty

Tribalism

Independence

Compassion

Hospitality













# OPIUM

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DIET











God's grace lies there in the high mountains.  
At their summit there is snow; at their feet flowers

Afghan "landay-style" (poem)





Pashtunwali





# RELIGION

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- Islam (submission)
- Sources (Quran, Sunnah, Hadith)
- Five Pillars
- Daily life
- Festivities





GENDER-ROLES





FAMILY

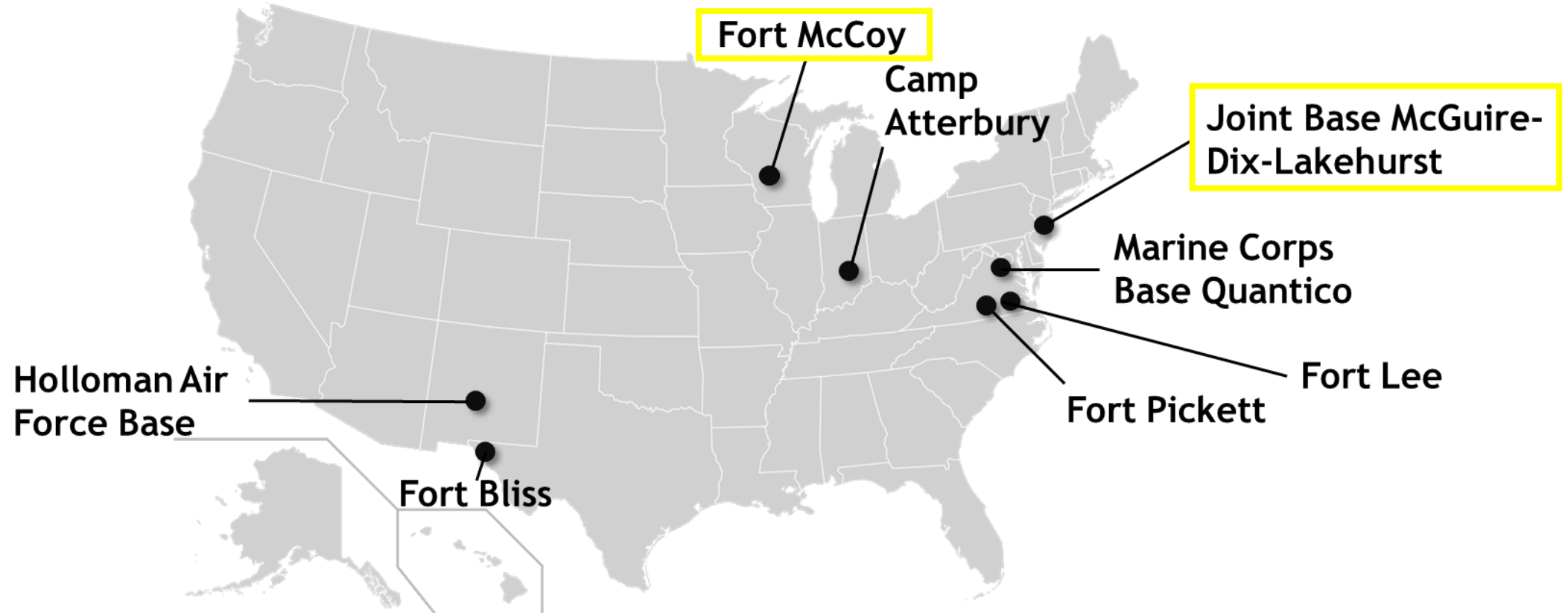




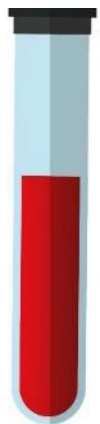
OPERATION ALLIES WELCOME



# How Operation Allies Welcome is Different



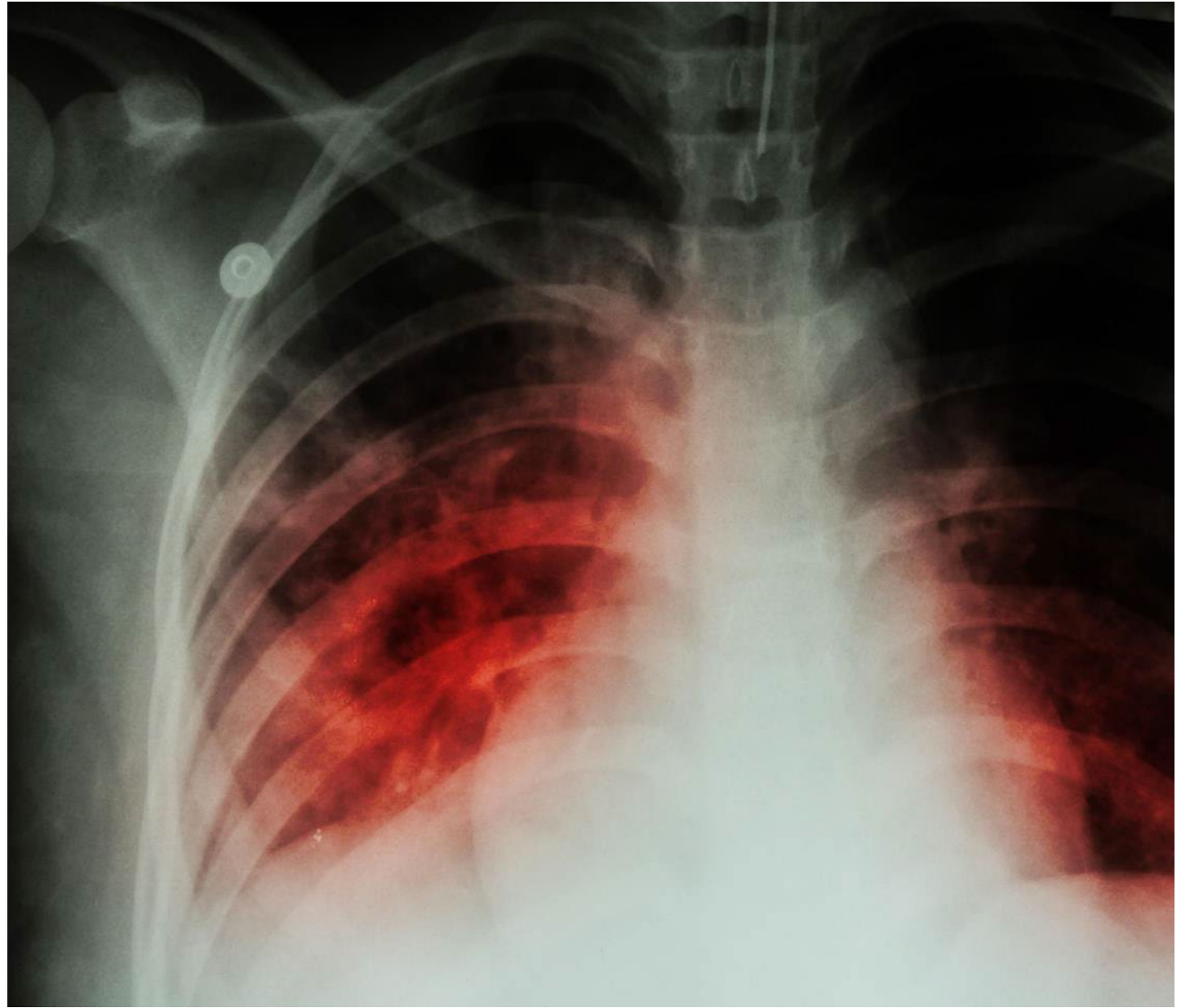




IGRA

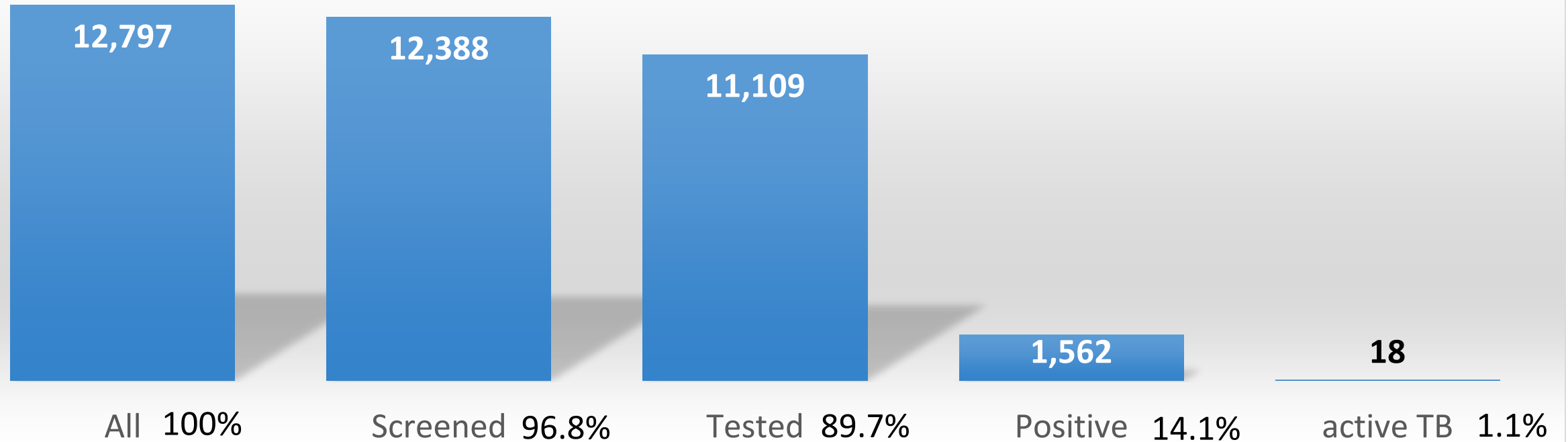
CXR

Sputum





## Ft McCoy TB Cascade



# TB in Allies Welcome at Fort McCoy



# DO'S AND DON'T'S







# DO'S AND DON'T'S



ETIQUETTE







ETIQUETTE

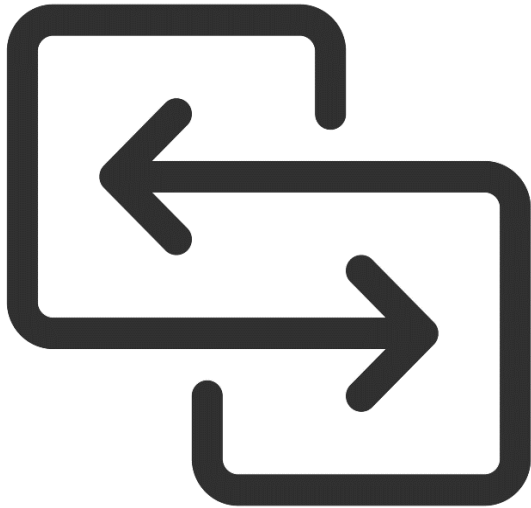




ETIQUETTE



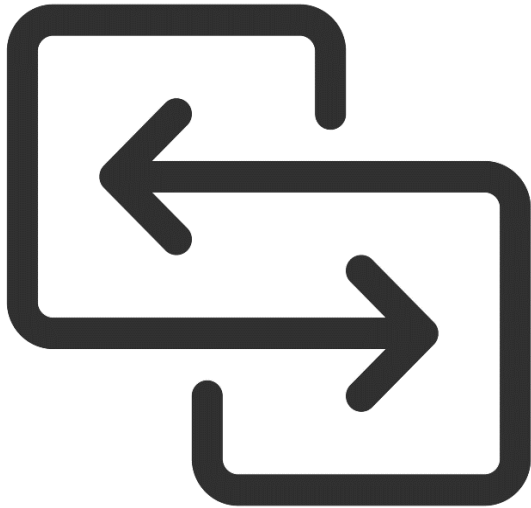
# In General: Best Practices With New Arrival Families, Including Evacuees



- **Attempt to understand family's functioning through a culturally sensitive lens.**
  - Educate yourself as needed.
  - Avoid generalizations and stereotypes.
  - Ask questions: "How would you describe this problem?"
  - Recognize the importance of confidentiality and trust.



# In General: Best Practices With New Arrival Families, Including Evacuees



- **Use interpreters when needed—family members are not recommended.**
  - Don't rely on interpreter for engaging with family.
  - Speak directly to client or family member.
  - Be mindful of dynamics between interpreter and clients.
- **Maintain a trauma-informed perspective.**



# Best Practices

- Keep in mind that for many families interacting with various American health professionals is still a new experience. They may feel nervous, anxious, or unsure on how to act.
- Be friendly, welcoming, and patient.



# Best Practices

- Learn about cultural or religious beliefs surrounding health. This can prevent misunderstandings.
- Keep in mind that body language, etiquette, and ways of showing respect can be very different.
- Take the “refugee” or “evacuee” out.
- How would you treat anyone else?





# Communication Tips

- Speak directly to the client through the translator.
- Watch body language.
- Don't assume.
- Take time.





In the Clinic



Learn What  
People Value and  
the individual  
experience of life

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Culture –history,  
language,  
geography, religion,  
belief, family and  
society





What gives them joy?

What are their Fears  
and Barriers?



Value What People  
Know.

How is life lived and  
seen from their  
perspective?





Understand the  
ways they speak  
their narrative  
of the illness



Speak in ways they  
understand and what  
matters to them





# Stigma

Knowing is not enough.

What do they value or  
stigmatize?

compromise party advantage  
strategy condition bargain  
purpose tactic benefit

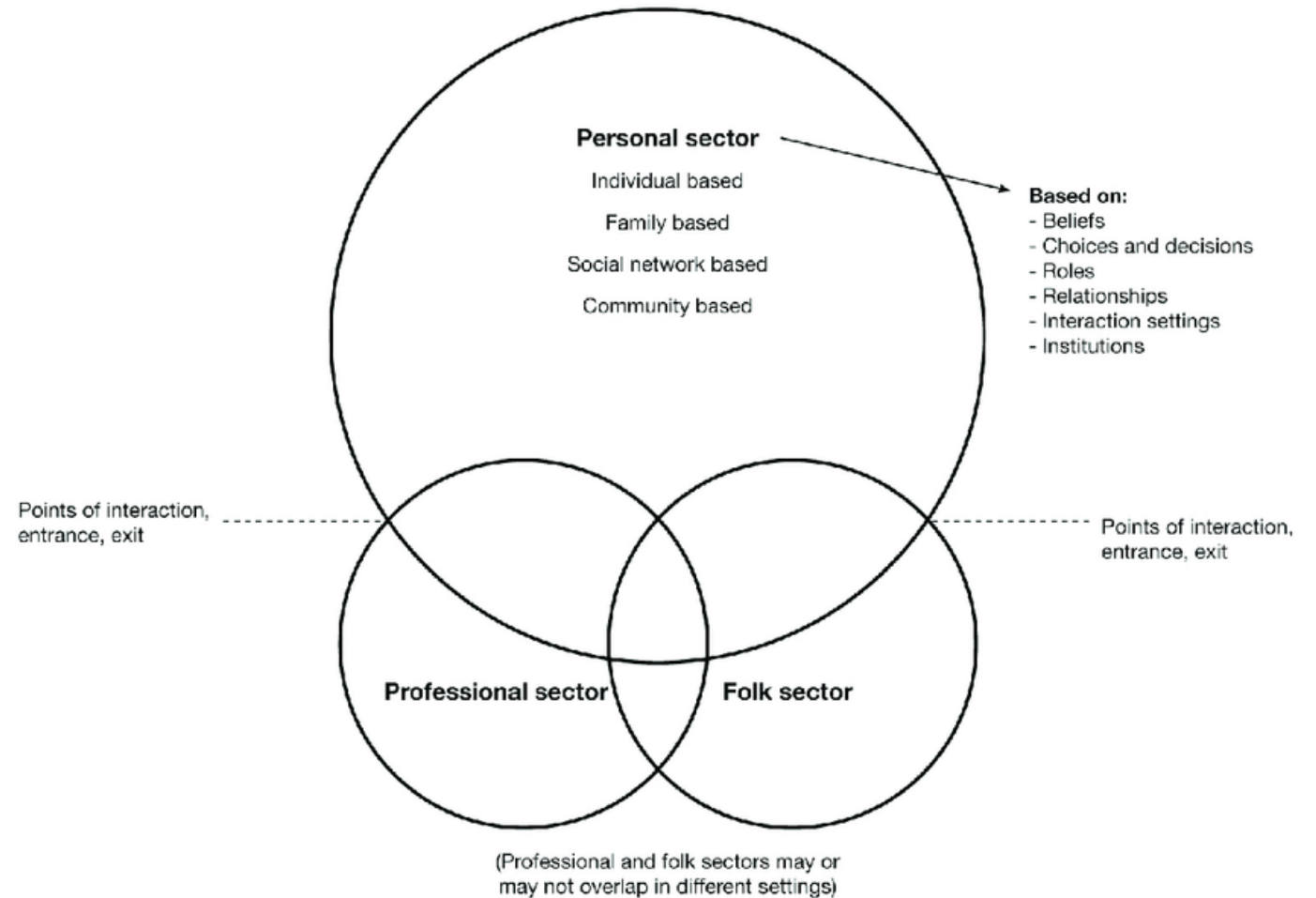
Negotiation

dialog goal  
difference accommodating  
alternate competing outcome  
avoiding debate collaboration  
understanding agreement  
consideration gain principle

Negotiation is key.  
What will work?



# Kleinman's model of healthcare systems



## Kleinman's Eight Questions

- What do **you** call the problem?
- What do **you** think has caused the problem?
- Why do **you** think it started when it did?
- What do **you** think the sickness does/How does it work?





## Kleinman's Eight Questions

- How severe is the sickness or will it have a long or short course?
- What kind of treatment do **you** think the patient should receive?
- What are the chief problems the sickness has caused?
- What do **you** fear most about the sickness?





Questions?